

## 2016 FOSS FARM COMMUNITY GARDENS RULES AND PLOT APPLICATION

Applications for community garden plots at the Foss Farm Conservation Land will be accepted from March 4 through April 1, 2016. Applications received after the published deadline will be considered as first-time requests for garden plots. Send this completed application along with a check for \$15 for each plot (limited to 2 per household) to: *Carlisle Conservation Commission, Carlisle Town Hall, 66 Westford Street, Carlisle, MA 01741. Please make the check payable to the Town of Carlisle.* If you are a new applicant or have no email access, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope

**Plot Assignments** - The Foss Farm garden area is divided into 25' x 30' plots. A household consists of individuals residing at the same street address. One person per household may apply for up to 2 plots for the gardening season and is designated the *principal gardener*. The *principal gardener* may select up to 3 additional persons, not members of the household, who may share equal access to the plots assigned to the *principal gardener*. These individuals are designated *co-gardeners*. **No person can be listed on more than one application form.**

Each plot must be tended primarily by the *principal gardener* and associated *co-gardeners* assigned to that plot. It is not acceptable to regularly tend plots assigned to another *principal gardener* unless you notify the Garden Manager of extenuating circumstances. Individuals who fail to observe this rule will not be considered for plot assignment the following year.

The *principal gardener* is responsible for adherence to the garden rules.

Plots are assigned to the *principal gardener* in priority order as follows:

1. Returning gardeners who had a garden plot the previous year (or year before, if they took a year off).
2. Returning gardeners requesting plot reassignment
3. New gardeners who have been previously wait-listed
4. New gardeners making their first request
5. Returning gardeners requesting a second plot
6. If there are plots available after all assignments have been made, they will be distributed by lottery to those applicants who have indicated their interest by checking the box on the application form.

If there is a waiting list for plots, new gardeners will be limited to 1 plot per household.

Returning *principal gardeners* have the option to skip one gardening season without losing their returning gardener status.

A garden map with the *principal gardener's* names indicating plot assignments will be sent to all gardeners.

**Plot Maintenance** – All gardeners are expected to maintain their plots regularly and follow good gardening practices. **Do not use wood chips or bark mulch to manage weeds. These materials do not break down quickly and tend to deplete the soil's nitrogen.** Keep plots weeded, including the 18-inch buffer strip surrounding the plot. This allows access around the sides and rear of the plot and also permits your neighbors to access their plots and the wells. If your plot abuts a water pump, please help remove the weeds around the pump.

Keep all roadway edges next to the plot clear to permit occasional mowing by the Garden Manager. Do not store rocks, bricks, stakes, tools, chairs, hay bales or mulch in this area or in the 18-inch buffer strip. Place all weeds and diseased plants in the compost areas shown on the plot map.

Since there is no trash service, you are responsible for taking all non-plant material trash off site. **Do not remove or relocate the yellow plot boundary stakes or attach fencing to them.**

## **2016 FOSS FARM COMMUNITY GARDENS RULES (continued)**

**Spring Planting** – You will be notified of the garden's opening date by email or regular mail, if you have no email. Please do not drive into the garden area before the opening date.

If you plant perennials, remember to remove them at the end of the gardening season since the plots will be plowed the following spring. Consider planting them in pots that can be easily removed at the end of the season. Pots will prevent them from escaping and becoming invasive (e.g. mint family, thyme, garlic chive, etc.). Do not plant in unassigned areas.

### **Garden Abandonment** –

- By June 8, if a plot is not substantially cleared of weeds and there is no clear evidence of active gardening, the Garden Manager, may at his/her discretion, reassign the plot to another gardener.
- By July 1, if a garden has clearly been abandoned (i.e., plants have not been tended for over a month) the Garden Manager may at his/her discretion; reassign the plot to another gardener.

In either case, the application fee will not be refunded and the gardener may lose his/her "returning gardener" status. The Garden Manager's discretion will be based on the outcome of efforts to communicate with the gardener. Garden plots that become available due to abandonment, relinquishment or substantial inactivity will be reassigned for the rest of the growing season by first addressing the waiting list and then by lottery among interested existing gardeners.

**Fall Cleanup** – By October 31, please remove from Foss Farm Community Gardens all non-plant material that could interfere with plowing and/or an agricultural burn. This includes plastic ground cover, tools, stakes, logs, boards, fencing, rocks, bricks, string, cement blocks, etc. Late season crops may remain. If you planted perennials, remember to remove them at the end of the gardening season since the plots will be plowed the following spring.

**Garden Road and Garden Gate** – Plots are accessible by automobile. Please drive slowly on the road to reduce ruts and dust. Please watch for pedestrians and wildlife. To prevent theft and unauthorized entry, if you are the last to leave the gardens, please lock the gate behind you.

**Pesticides** – Use of herbicides is prohibited. Only insecticides and fungicides listed by the Northeast Organic Farming Association [www.nofamass.org](http://www.nofamass.org) are permitted. For list of substances see <http://baystateorganic.org> For your own protection and the protection of other gardeners, familiarize yourself with proper use methods or ask experienced gardeners for help before applying any remedies.

**Well Operation and Etiquette** – To operate well pumps, prime the pump first by filling the pitcher opening on top with water from the barrel while pumping the handle. Please refill the barrel for the next person after you have drawn off the water you need. Please note that the Carlisle Board of Health considers water from these wells to be non-potable.

**Pets** – Pets in and around the gardens must be kept under strict control to avoid damage to plants. Please be considerate of your fellow gardeners.

**Motorized Equipment** – Given the size of the plots, only small farm tractors, rototillers, weeders and water pumps are permitted for plot maintenance. Construction and landscape equipment, including bulldozers and excavators, are prohibited.

# 2016 FOSS FARM COMMUNITY GARDENS PLOT APPLICATION

## Principal Gardener

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NO. OF PLOTS REQUESTED (check 1 box only)     1 plot     2 plots

Would you like to participate in a lottery for an additional plot?     Yes     No

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

LICENSE PLATE NUMBER(S): \_\_\_\_\_

## Co-Gardeners

NAME 1: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

LICENSE PLATE NUMBER(S): \_\_\_\_\_

NAME 2: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

LICENSE PLATE NUMBER(S): \_\_\_\_\_

NAME 3: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

LICENSE PLATE NUMBER(S): \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the above rules governing gardening at Foss Farm Community Gardens and agree to abide by them.

I understand that failure to comply may result in the loss of my assigned plot without refund and the loss of future gardening privileges.

I agree to hold harmless the Town of Carlisle and/or its employees and volunteers from claims or liability related to any accident and/or injury that may occur as a result of gardening at Foss Farm Community Gardens.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to contribute to the irrigation well maintenance fund?     No     Yes    Amount \_\_\_\_\_    (add this amount to your application fee check)

Would you like to join the non-public Yahoo Foss Farm Gardens discussion group?     No     Yes

**REMEMBER:**    **MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO THE "TOWN OF CARLISLE".**  
**INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR APPLICATION IF YOU ARE A NEW GARDENER OR HAVE NO EMAIL ACCESS.**

**Office use**    Date recd. \_\_\_\_\_    Pmt Total. \_\_\_\_\_    Check No. \_\_\_\_\_